

THOSE FIRMS AND INSTITUTIONS WHICH HAVE THE CAPABILITY TO MEET THE CHALLENGE OF INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIVENESS ARE THE ONES WHICH OPERATE ON A REGIONAL-WIDE BASIS. THERE IS AN URGENT NEED TO REMOVE BARRIERS TO SUCH REGIONAL ENTERPRISE AND TO ENCOURAGE THE SHARING OF FINANCE AND TALENTS IN AN EFFORT TO INTEGRATE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AT COMMONWEALTH LEVELS.

IN THE CULTURAL SPHERE ANXIETIES ARE WIDESPREAD ABOUT THE THREAT TO CARIBBEAN CULTURAL IDENTITY POSED BY THE IMPACT OF SATELLITE TELEVISION. IN RELATION TO SECURITY, THE DANGERS TO SYSTEMS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND JUSTICE ARISING FROM THE GROWTH IN CROSS-BORDER TRAFFIC IN DRUGS, NOT TO SPEAK OF THE SOCIAL IMPACT OF REGIONAL CONSUMPTION OF THOSE DRUGS, NOT TO SPEAK OF THE SOCIAL IMPACT OF REGIONAL CONSUMPTION OF THOSE DRUGS THEMSELVES, CREATE A SITUATION WHERE GOVERNMENTS ARE FACING THE RISK OF LOSING CONTROL OVER THEIR JURISDICTIONS. THE GROWTH OF THE DRUG TRADE IS IN A WAY RETURNING THE REGION TO THE COLONIAL SITUATION WHERE THEY WERE NOT ENTITIES IN THEMSELVES BUT MERELY PLACES FOUND CONVENT FOR THE PURSUIT OF COMMERCE. THEREFORE, IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITIES OF THE CARIBBEAN AND THE COMMONWEALTH SHOULD WORK TOGETHER IN AN ENDEAVOUR TO HARNESS OUR RESOURCES TO ARREST THE CURRENT SITUATION.